

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**In the Matter of the Petition of:**

Douglas and Jessica Rupp; Kathie  
Dunn and Chris Hall; Melinda  
Inman; Verlin Jacobs; Anthony  
Williams; Christine and Samuel  
Inman; Robert Jacobs; and Sam  
Haverkemp and Chris Portrey,  
Petitioners

**NO. UT-050778**

v.

Verizon Northwest, Inc.,  
Respondent.

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF**

**CAPT. ERNIE WALTERS**

**ON BEHALF OF**

**RUPP, et al**

**ISSUE: Impact of the lack of 911 service on Skyko 2**

**OCTOBER 12, 2005**

1 **Q. What is your name, address, and occupation?**

2 A. My name is Ernie Walters. My address is 5827 Mero Rd S.E. Snohomish, WA  
3 98290. Currently I am the full time Captain/Training Officer for Snohomish  
4 County Fire Protection District #28 (Index).

5

6 **Q. What is the general topic of your testimony?**

7 A. The general topic of my testimony is emergency response issues concerning  
8 the area of the Index-Galena road from milepost 2 to milepost 15 (mainly the  
9 Skyko 2 area)

10

11 **Q. What are your qualifications to testify on this topic?**

12 A. My qualifications are as follows: I am currently the fulltime Captain/Training  
13 Officer for Snohomish County Fire Protection District #28 (Index) and have been  
14 employed in the district for the last 4 years, I also currently work part-time at  
15 Snohomish County Fire District #3 (Monroe) and have been employed there for  
16 the last 9 Years. I also am responsible for the input of all calls, training of  
17 personnel, maintenance of equipment, reviewing and critiquing of all calls and  
18 the Incident Commander for most major incidents in Fire District #28.

19

1 **Q. How do the residents of Skyko 2 and the surrounding area currently report**  
2 **a fire or medical emergency?**

3 A. Currently the only way that I am aware of that the residents of Skyko 2 and  
4 the surrounding area can report an emergency (fire or medical) is to either have a  
5 satellite phone with good reception, or drive 5 to 10 miles to the Town of Index  
6 to call 911.

7

8 **Q. How does this method of reporting effect your response time as opposed to**  
9 **a 911 call from the location of the emergency?**

10 A. The method of driving to town to call 911 effects our response time by adding  
11 at least 5 to 15 minutes before we are even dispatched for the call.

12

13 **Q. Please describe what effect this difference in response time has had on the**  
14 **outcome of emergencies that your department has responded to in the past in**  
15 **the Skyko 2 area or might have on emergencies in the future (such as a**  
16 **structure fire or a heart attack).**

1 A. Over the years we have had multiple calls of a serious nature in the Index-  
2 Galena area anywhere from milepost 2 to milepost 15 and in many cases the  
3 reporting party had to drive to town to call in the emergency, which prolonged  
4 the suffering of the patient or caused more damage to property.

5

6 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

7 A. Yes, it does.